

Variances to Standards Review Board

August 6, 21013

Meeting Minutes

Holiday Inn Express
Helena, MT

ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS:

- Fred Anderson
- ***Mona Bilden - Absent***
- Mary Jo Bremner
- John Fleming
- Paul Furthmyre
- Anne Keith
- Tony Kloker
- ***Lance Voegle - Absent***

OPI STAFF PRESENT:

- Denise Juneau, Superintendent
- Dennis Parman, Deputy Superintendent
- Nancy Coopersmith, Assistant Superintendent
- Linda Vrooman Peterson, Accreditation and Educator Preparation Division Administrator
- Teri Wing, Accreditation Specialist
- Effie Benoit, Accreditation Data Specialist
- Donna Waters, Administrative Specialist
- Michael Hall, Technology Specialist

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Teri Wing called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

Dr. Wing introduced the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) staff present.

State Superintendent welcomed the Variances to Standards Review Board and thanked them for the hard work they were about to do today.

Dennis Parman, State Deputy Superintendent, and Dr. Wing led the Board in business practice discussions.

Board discussed and agreed that the Variances to Standards Review Board would receive Public Comment before each application.

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Tony Kloker placed motion on the floor to nominate Fred Anderson as Acting Chairman.

Motion was seconded by John Fleming.

No discussion. Motion was adopted unanimously.

Anne Keith placed motion on the floor to nominate Tony Kloker as Acting Vice-Chairman.

Mary Jo Bremner seconded the motion.

No discussion. Motion was adopted unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Acting Chairman Anderson asked Public Comment on any items not on the Agenda.

APPLICATION #1 – VARIANCE TO STANDARD ARM 10.55.601(3)

**SUBMITTED BY: TROY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT (W.F. MORRISON
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, TROY JR. HIGH SCHOOL AND TROY HIGH SCHOOL)**

PUBLIC COMMENT – The Variances to Standards Review Board affords the public the opportunity to comment before the Review Board on every application prior to Review Board discussion.

Public Comment by Mr. Daniel Sybrant, Region Director, AdvancEd

MOTION - Paul Furthmyre moved that the Review Board recommends approval of the request to use the AdvancEd /NWAC school improvement process in lieu of the Continuous School Improvement Plan contingent upon submission of the schools' local AdvancEd/NWAC School Improvement Plan to the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) within the same timeframe as required for the Continuous School Improvement Plan. The Review Board reinforces that this variance is only for ARM 10.55.601(3). The mechanics of submission of the local AdvancEd plan will be determined by the OPI. The AdvancEd plan exceeds the requirements of ARM 10.55.601(3) and the Review Board commends the aforementioned schools for seeking a system-wide means of school improvement.

SECONDED - Anne Keith seconded motion.

VOTE - Motion passed unanimously.

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APPLICATION #2 – VARIANCE TO STANDARD ARM 10.55.601(3)
SUBMITTED BY: POWELL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

PUBLIC COMMENT – The Variances to Standards Review Board affords the public the opportunity to comment before the Review Board on every application prior to Review Board discussion.

No public comment.

MOTION – Anne Keith moved that the Variances to Standards Review Board recommend that the application for Variance to Standard ARM 10.55.601(3) from Powell County High School be approved. The Review Board recommends approval of the request to use the AdvancEd /NWAC school improvement process in lieu of the Continuous School Improvement Plan contingent upon submission of the schools' local AdvancEd/NWAC School Improvement Plan to OPI within the same timeframe as required for the Continuous School Improvement Plan.

This recommendation is contingent upon submission of clarification of numbers 10 and 11 in the application no later than Friday, August 9, 2013, by noon; otherwise, the application will need to be resubmitted by October 1, 2013, for the November BPE meeting.

The Review Board reinforces that this variance is only for ARM 10.55.601(3). The mechanics of submission of the local AdvancEd plan will be determined by the OPI.

SECONDED - John Fleming seconded motion.

VOTE – 5 votes YES; 1 vote NO by John Fleming (no minority report requested).
Motion passed.

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APPLICATION #3 – VARIANCE TO STANDARD ARM 10.55.601(3)

SUBMITTED BY: KALISPELL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT (FLATHEAD HIGH SCHOOL AND GLACIER HIGH SCHOOL)

PUBLIC COMMENT – The Variances to Standards Review Board affords the public the opportunity to comment before the Review Board on every application prior to Review Board discussion.

No public comment.

MOTION – Paul Furthmyre moved that the Review Board recommends approval of the request to use the AdvancEd /NWAC school improvement process in lieu of the Continuous School Improvement Plan contingent upon submission of the schools' local AdvancEd/NWAC School Improvement Plan to the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) within the same timeframe as required for the Continuous School Improvement Plan. The Review Board reinforces that this variance is only for ARM 10.55.601(3). The mechanics of submission of the local AdvancEd plan will be determined by the OPI. The AdvancEd plan exceeds the requirements of ARM 10.55.601(3) and the Review Board commends the aforementioned schools for seeking a system-wide means of school improvement..

SECONDED – Tony Kloker seconded motion.

VOTE – Motion passed unanimously.

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APPLICATION #4 – VARIANCE TO STANDARD ARM 10.55.601(3)

SUBMITTED BY: DARBY SCHOOL DISTRICT (DARBY ELEMENTARY, DARBY MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND DARBY HIGH SCHOOL)

PUBLIC COMMENT – The Variances to Standards Review Board affords the public the opportunity to comment before the Review Board on every application prior to Review Board discussion.

No public comment.

MOTION – Mary Jo Bremner moved that the Variances to Standards Review Board recommend that the application for Variance to Standard ARM 10.55.601(3) from Darby Elementary, Darby Middle School, and Darby High School be approved. The Review Board recommends approval of the request to use the AdvancEd /NWAC school improvement process in lieu of the Continuous School Improvement Plan contingent upon submission of the schools' local AdvancEd/NWAC School Improvement Plan to OPI within the same timeframe as required for the Continuous School Improvement Plan.

MOTION RECALLED by Mary Jo Bremner.

MOTION – Anne Keith moved that the Variances to Standards Review Board recommends that the application for Variance to Standard ARM 10.55.601(3) from Darby Elementary, Darby Middle School, and Darby High School be approved. The Review Board recommends approval of the request to use the AdvancEd /NWAC school improvement process in lieu of the Continuous School Improvement Plan contingent upon submission of the schools' local AdvancEd/NWAC School Improvement Plan to OPI within the same timeframe as required for the Continuous School Improvement Plan.

This recommendation is contingent upon submission of clarification of numbers 10 and 11 in the application no later than Friday, August 9, 2013, by noon; otherwise, the application will need to be resubmitted by October 1, 2013, for the November BPE meeting.

The Review Board reinforces that this variance is only for ARM 10.55.601(3). The mechanics of submission of the local AdvancEd plan will be determined by the OPI.

SECONDED - John Fleming seconded motion.

VOTE – Motion passed unanimously.

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APPLICATION #5 – VARIANCE TO STANDARD ARM 10.55.601(3)
SUBMITTED BY: SWEET GRASS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

PUBLIC COMMENT – The Variances to Standards Review Board affords the public the opportunity to comment before the Review Board on every application prior to Review Board discussion.

No public comment.

MOTION – John Fleming moved that the Review Board recommends approval of the request to use the AdvancEd /NWAC school improvement process in lieu of the Continuous School Improvement Plan contingent upon submission of the schools' local AdvancEd/NWAC School Improvement Plan to the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) within the same timeframe as required for the Continuous School Improvement Plan. The Review Board reinforces that this variance is only for ARM 10.55.601(3). The mechanics of submission of the local AdvancEd plan will be determined by the OPI. The AdvancEd plan exceeds the requirements of ARM 10.55.601(3) and the Review Board commends the aforementioned schools for seeking a system-wide means of school improvement..

SECONDED – Tony Kloker seconded motion.

VOTE – Motion passed unanimously.

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APPLICATION #6 – VARIANCE TO STANDARD ARM 10.55.601(3)
SUBMITTED BY: MANHATTAN HIGH SCHOOL (

PUBLIC COMMENT – The Variances to Standards Review Board affords the public the opportunity to comment before the Review Board on every application prior to Review Board discussion.

No public comment.

MOTION – Anne Keith moved that the Review Board recommends approval of the request to use the AdvancEd /NWAC school improvement process in lieu of the Continuous School Improvement Plan contingent upon submission of the schools' local AdvancEd/NWAC School Improvement Plan to the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) within the same timeframe as required for the Continuous School Improvement Plan. The Review Board reinforces that this variance is only for ARM 10.55.601(3). The mechanics of submission of the local AdvancEd plan will be determined by the OPI. The AdvancEd plan exceeds the requirements of ARM 10.55.601(3) and the Review Board commends the aforementioned schools for seeking a system-wide means of school improvement.

SECONDED – John Fleming seconded motion.

VOTE – Motion passed unanimously.

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APPLICATION #7 – VARIANCE TO STANDARD ARM 10.55.710, SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM

SUBMITTED BY: HELENA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT (BROADWATER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, BRYANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, FOUR GEORGIANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HAWTHORNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, JIM DARCY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, KESSLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, ROSSITER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SMITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND WARREN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL)

PUBLIC COMMENT – The Variances to Standards Review Board affords the public the opportunity to comment before the Review Board on every application prior to Review Board discussion.

- * *Public Comment made by Kent Kultgen, Superintendent, Helena Elementary School.*
- * *Public Comment made by Greg Upham, Assistant Superintendent, Helena Elementary School District.*
- * *Public Comment made by Teresa Majerus Montana School Counseling Association.*
- * *Public Comment made by Barb Holden, Middle School Counselor in Great Falls.*
- * *Public Comment made by Katey Franklin, Montana State University in Bozeman.*
- * *Public Comment made by Barbara Rush, retired Helena Elementary School Teacher.*
- * *Public Comment made by John Rush, former Helena School Board Member.*

MOTION – This is a request by the Helena Elementary School District for a variance to ARM 10.55.710, School Counseling Program. The request is to staff the K-5 counseling program with a blend of counselors and licensed social workers as described below (provided to the BPE by the Helena Elementary District as a corrective plan, July 2013):

School	Required Counselor FTE in ARM 10.55.701	Counselor Assigned	Social Worker Assigned
Broadwater	.67	.67	
Hawthorne	.65	.30	.35

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Bryant	.65		.65
Warren	.75	.75	
Jim Darcy	.71	.39	.32
Smith	.68		.68
Rossiter	1.2	.2	1.0
Four Georgians	1.2	1.2	
Jefferson	.65	.65	
Kessler	.64	.60	
Totals	7.8 FTE	4.76 FTE	3.0 FTE

MOTION – Tony Kloker moved that the Review Board recommends approval of the application for Standard to Variance to ARM 10.55.710 for Broadwater Elementary School, Bryant Elementary School, Central Elementary School, Four Georgians Elementary School, Hawthorne Elementary school, Jefferson Elementary School, Jim Darcy Elementary School, Kessler Elementary School, Rossiter Elementary School, Smith Elementary School and Warren Elementary School as presented.

SECONDED – Anne Keith seconded motion.

VOTE - 5 votes for YES; 1 vote for NO (Paul Furthmyre)

MAJORITY REPORT - The application material was results driven. The results appear to indicate that this model works well for the children, regardless of the combination of counselors and social workers. Schools can't meet the academic needs of children at school if the needs at home are not being met; the social workers can get out and do this.

MINORITY REPORT - Chapter 55 was just revised and the ratio of 400:1 was left as is. The Task Force must have had some reasoning behind keeping the ratio the same.

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Paul Furthmyre motions for meeting to adjourn.

Motion seconded by Mary Jo Bremner.

No discussion. Motion was adopted unanimously.

Variances to Standards Review Board Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.